(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had examined the reasons for such disruption; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Internet services were affected in the month of January and February 2008.

(c) and (d) The availability of international bandwidth was affected due to breakdown of one international under-sea cable system near Malaysia and two international under-sea cable systems near Egypt. Various service providers had not planned restoration capacity on various under-sea cables to meet such exigencies.

Levying of fee on GSM operators

1423. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to initiate any action or levy an appropriate fee on the existing GSM operators for hoarding excess spectrum in excess of their licence agreement from the date of allocation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the manner, Government proposes to bridge its losses to tune of thousands of crores of rupees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The initial spectrum has been allotted to the GSM operators as per provisions of their respective Service Licence Agreement and based on their request and availability of spectrum. With growth of their services, additional spectrum beyond the initial spectrum, has been allotted to GSM operators as per guidelines, orders and subscriber based eligibility criteria in force at the time of allotment of additional spectrum, subject to its availability.

Spectrum charges are levied from GSM operators on revenue share basis. Increased rate of revenue share percentage is levied for total spectrum, which includes initial as well as additional spectrum.

Cyber cafes in computerized Post Office

1424. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering starting cyber cafes or internet access points in computerized post offices all over the country; and

(b) if not, will such a proposal be considered in the future as it will be a boon to the people especially in rural India and will also get in revenue for the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Department